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## **Navajo President Grants Administrative Leave for Navajo Voters to Cast Ballots**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.**— Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly granted eight hours of administrative leave Tuesday for Navajo Nation tribal employees to cast their ballot on Tuesday for the Navajo Nation Primary Election.

“I signed a memorandum for eight hours of leave because I believe voting is necessary. I want the Navajo people to cast their ballot without the worry of making it to the polling lines before they close.” President Shelly stated.

In 2010, Arizona state officials stated about 30 percent of registered voters cast their ballots in primary elections in Apache, Navajo and Coconino counties.

According the Navajo Nation 2010 General Election Official Voter Participation Report, 111,985 people are registered to vote. However, only 57.98 percent (64,925) casted ballots for general election.

“We need to increase the voting numbers. It is important for the Navajo people to voice their vote in chapter, county, state and national elections. I encourage every person who is eligible to vote to take the time to make it to your local voting prescient and cast that vote.” President Shelly stated.

On February 13, 2012, President Shelly signed Legislation 0414-11, a bill that makes it easier for Navajos to vote in Arizona primaries.

“Back in February I stated that I want to make it easier for Navajo people to vote and I believe eight hours of administrative leave is sufficient to make that happen.” Shelly stated.

Permanent and temporary voters who are registered voters within the Navajo Nation are granted the eight hours of administrative leave.

Emergency personnel or those on call are required to make necessary arrangements with their immediate supervisor prior to being excused.

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